

New York Tribune.

Last to Last the Truth: News, Editorials, Advertisements.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1914.

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation, 125 N. York St., New York, N. Y.

Subscription Rates.—By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York.

FOREIGN RATES.—By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York.

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

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The Truth About the American Navy.

The Tribune prints to-day the facts as to the submarines of the United States Navy. Those facts and all the facts as to the condition of our fleets are in the possession of every foreign office—London, Berlin, Tokio. They should be in the possession of those most vitally concerned, the American people. The Tribune purposes to see that they reach them.

The report printed to-day is a beginning. It will be followed by other articles showing the condition of other arms of the service. The accounts given do not pretend to be exhaustive. There is no field in which it is so difficult for a newspaper to discover the inside facts as the field of military service. The Tribune has used every effort to verify such facts as it prints; it is confident of their substantial accuracy. For a complete and thorough exposition the country must look to a Congressional investigation.

That investigation must come, and come promptly. From the information which has reached us we feel justified in asserting that never since our modern navy came into existence have the naval forces of the United States been in as low a state of efficiency as they are to-day. It is not here a question of increasing our navy. It is a question of maintaining such forces as we have at something approaching their full fighting strength. It is not a question of personal blame or party responsibility. The safety of the nation is at stake and the truth must be known, wherever it strikes.

The Wrong Sort of Economy.

The Board of Aldermen has voted to reduce by more than 50 per cent the appropriation for the free public lecture system of the Board of Education. Last year these lectures were attended by about 1,250,000 persons. In the two months of the present season which have already elapsed the attendance has exceeded that of last year by 75,000, indicating a total for this year of probably 1,500,000. At a cost of \$140,000, the total appropriation asked for by the Board of Education and voted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, that would mean a fraction more than nine cents apiece for the auditors—nine cents apiece, to enable the working men and women of this city to satisfy the hunger of their minds for practical, useful knowledge. Surely, there are few equal services rendered at so small a cost.

Yet now the Board of Aldermen votes to reduce the appropriation from \$140,000 to \$66,000, with the sneering recommendation that the board should get lecturers to serve without pay. It is not conceivable that the people will approve this piecey economy. They approve and desire economy, but they do not believe in misplaced and injurious economy.

More Light on Italy's Attitude.

Premier Salandra's address to the Italian Parliament contains the clearest statement yet made of Italy's attitude toward the problems created by the war. Hitherto the Italian government has contented itself with proclaiming a policy of strict neutrality. At the outset it announced that it was not bound under the terms of the Triple Alliance treaty to go to the aid of Germany and Austria-Hungary, because the war in which the two latter powers were engaged was not a defensive one. Beyond that it expressed no opinion and merely suggested that its own interests required it to avoid entanglements with either set of belligerents.

Signor Salandra now goes further and says that a merely passive neutrality cannot sufficiently safeguard Italy's position in Europe. She is a great power, looking confidently to the future, and must be prepared to secure consideration at a time when important political changes in Europe and Asia are impending. Therefore, she must be "watchful, powerful and ready for any eventuality."

Italy was freed and reunited not so much through the action of her own people as through the consequences of wars between other European states inuring to her advantage. No Italian statesman to-day can forget the sequence of events in Europe from 1840 to 1870, by which Italy so signally profited, or in his heart look upon the present European conflict as anything but another opportunity tossed by fate into Italy's lap. Therefore, when Premier Salandra says that Italy's first duty is to develop to the utmost her military strength and to stand ready to use it "to preserve intact her policies," he only speaks what all Italians feel. With Italy it is only a case of preparing herself completely and then using her power to improve her position and safeguard her future.

National self-interest will, of course, decide Italy's final action. The present ministry is not yet prepared to forecast that action. Probably Italy was caught last August more or less unprepared, in a military sense, just as France was, and still needs several months to make good deficiencies in material. Probably, also, the choice to be made is not yet absolutely clear from the point of view of double-distilled prudence. But

there can be no doubt as to where Italy's sympathies lie. The cry of the Extreme Left, "Viva Trieste!" in the midst of the Premier's speech and the spontaneous greetings sent by the lower chamber to "heroic and unfortunate Belgium" tell the whole story. Italy's heart is with the Allies, although she still cautiously delays making common cause with them against Turkey, Austria-Hungary and Germany.

The Great Prophecy of the Spring.

The sex which eternally wonders, admires and pays will have only fresh praise for the news of spring now vouchsafed it. Names and details aside, the hobbled woman is to go. There can be no better tidings from the mysterious land of fashions.

Just how long around about the new skirt is to be to we do not find. Probably yards and yards, at a guess. For it is one of the inexorable laws that what has been is as far away from what shall be as the mind of a designer can conceive. Otherwise last year's frocks might do for this, and so on *ad infinitum*. But whatever the precise extent of the change, the old pappoose effect is banished; women will no more toddle down the street like puppets most inadequately equipped below the waist. The lost art of walking will return; once again a car can be boarded by simply stepping up, without resort to the standing broad jump, and the sexes can once more keep step. We pray for an early spring.

Belated Glorification.

To call the report on which Governor Glynn exonerates Mr. Voorhis a whitewash is to phrase it mildly. Nothing so plain and dull as whitewash is to be found in the report. It is at the least an illumination, a glorification, a regular sunburst of eulogy. Also it is a plain, undisguised piece of partisan nonsense.

Mr. Voorhis is an old man, estimable personally, but wholly unable to attend to the duties of the office of State Superintendent of Elections as they should have been attended to; and Tammany put him there because he was old. His handling of the state's business has been disgraceful. Fortunately, the Glynn glorification cannot keep him in office after January 1.

A Looking Backward Philosopher.

Edwin A. Merritt, jr., was probably the most popular legislator who served at Albany in the last twenty years. Essentially a "human" individual, with a broad knowledge of humanity's quirks, he had a mellow humor and tolerance which he was able to carry even into the bitterness and smallnesses of factional and partisan politics. The result was loyal support from friends and concessions from political antagonists, even to the point of bipartisan alliances for "something Ed wants."

With his splendid mental equipment and wide experience, Mr. Merritt should have gone far in public life. He fathered important measures and was one of his party's real, no nominal, leaders, during his legislative service. Smaller men have become Governors. He had the misfortune to have been a pupil in the old machine school of politics, and he believed in its methods. When the people of the state were breaking away from the bossism of Odell and, later, of Barnes, "Big Ed" was too loyal to shift and too honest to pretend that he had readjusted his views to jibe with the new idea of greater democracy. To his credit be it said that he paid philosophically the penalty of being true to happily vanishing ideals.

A Flash-in-the-Pan Rebellion.

The capture of General de Wet will probably end the Boer revolt in South Africa. It was not a real revolt, but simply a last flash in the pan of a local disaffection, fed on lingering memories of the Boer war.

It is significant that de Wet was run down and captured by men of his own race, now loyal citizens of the South African Union. That union was constructed in a way to insure the conquered Boers the largest possible share in its control. They were fully recognized as South Africans entitled to all the rights possessed by the British elements in the community. They enjoyed as much of democracy and freedom and personal rights as they had had under their own republican governments, and far greater economic advantages.

Great Britain's policy toward South Africa after the Boer war was not tainted by revenge or oppression, and its wisdom has been vindicated in the quick collapse of the de Wet-Maritz rebellion. There could be no successful rebellion, because the old hates and prejudices had been rooted out by a far-sighted and successful programme of reconstruction and reconciliation.

Our Convulsive Architecture.

Far be it from any dweller in New York to contradict Mr. Arnold Brunner on his estimate of our architecture. Perhaps he dwelt a little heavily on the worst side of things when he singled out Broadway of the roaring 40's. We have better spots, some very good, others at least middling. And there is much real distinction even where American individuality has full swing, as in lower Broadway at the canyon's deepest. But his general view is truthful and his plea for city planning is sound.

When will the public demand a beautiful design and consent to the individual sacrifices incidental to such a plan? Sooner than the pessimists think, we suspect. Propaganda and preaching cannot hasten the day very much, but a steadily improving taste can. Train enough eyes to prefer beauty to ugliness, to find pleasure in the one and annoyance in the other, and the way for more beauty will be found. Homes are better inside and outside than they used to be. If any one doubts that grace and charm now have a solid, far-reaching value and influence, look at the advertising of the day. It is not all of equal artistic merit. But the tendency is all in one direction. And for sheer training of the public's eye and mind in the principles of balance and design we will back the advertising columns of America against all the museums of the world. The former are seen daily, hourly; they are part of our daily lives. The latter are exceptional incidents. No amount of pictures in a gallery can offset a familiar world that swears to heaven.

So we think beauty will yet reach Broadway. She would be hardly worth having unless she came freely and naturally, not thrust upon us by a list of experts, but summoned by the shouts of a longing crowd. And that, in our optimism, is just the way we foresee her hour coming.

The Conning Tower

REVISED BY BISHOP GREER.

Tramp, tramp, the moral force is marching.

He said to his friend: "If the British march by land or sea from the town to-night, Tell them that war is senseless and stupid."

So we sang the chorus from Atlanta to the sea While we were moral-forcing through Georgia.

Moral force to right of them,
Moral force to left of them,
Moral force in front of them,
Volley'd and thunder'd.

"Shoot, if you must, this old gray head,
But war is a senseless thing," she said.

And the moral force's red glare, the kindly spirits bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Vim moralem virumque cano.

One visualizes President Wilson, also, firing the moral force heard round the world.

As we misunderstand it, a nation with inadequate armaments is likely to be drawn into war; and a nation with adequate armaments is likely to be drawn into war.

The time has come, the Walrus said, when we may postpone the talk of shoes and sealing-wax.

Thus Mr. Pepps, March 3, 1907, on the violation of Belgian neutrality: "News is this day come to the King, that the King of France is come with his army to the frontiers of Flanders, demanding leave to pass through their country towards Poland, but is denied, and thereupon that he is gone into the country. How true this is I dare not believe until I hear more."

CONVERSATION NOTE.

[From the Philadelphia Evening Ledger.]
Mrs. John H. Dialogue will entertain a theatre party Wednesday afternoon at the Broad Street Theatre, followed by a shore dinner at Bookbinder's.

The New Republic got a letter yesterday that must have illumined its whole week. "Your magazine," its writer said, "is too much like the New York Tribune."

AT USUAL RATES.

I said to her, "You darling girl!
This earth can't do without you.
Bouquets at you I want to hurl,
And tell the world about you.
In burning lines I'll sing your praise,
In sonnets and in roundels."

My lyrics shall acclaim your spell—
(Not chary be, nor stint them!)
And then, perhaps, one cannot tell,
Some magazine may print them.
"You mustn't dare!" she cried with fire,
"A thing like that will rouse mine ire."

Some editor will say: "That stuff
About her eyes is nifty;
I thought six bones would be enough,
I'll add a dollar-fifty.
And for these other charms of hers
I'll pay for them at so much per line."

She said to me, "I much admire
The way you say you prize me;
But please—upon your bloomin' lyre—
Do not commercialize me!"

Still, if publicity's your aim,
I would not mind some Trower fame."
J. O. L.

"He ate a leisurely breakfast," says a Satevost yarn. A. I. b. as O. Henry almost pointed out, is composed of sloop gin, snails and Philadelphia scrapple.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPPS.

December 3.—To King's College, and to call upon R. MacAlarney the pamphleteer, and we talked of all things in the world, meesemed. To luncheon with W. Lippmann and met there Allen McCurdy the minister and they two did have great argument about the war; and the result was much like that of all argument; neither convinced the other was right. But such cosmic matters are past my comprehension, though I do try never so hard to grasp them. With C. Hamilton the critic to a pool-table, and he trounced me, and not by luck neither, but by greater skill, even as mine is greater than Owen Johnson's.

4.—To I. Cobb's, and his Laura I found very well, which I was glad of. Thence for a walk to the city with him, and he did tell me of the talk he had with my Lord Kitchener, and him I take to be one of the world's great men, from Irvin's description. And his story of his visit, in Mr. Lorimer's journal, is the best piece of interviewing I have seen; a fine, clear article, with no verbal panoply at all. Read this day Robt. Dunn's "The Youngest World," an earnest book, but the style half Frank Norris and half Jack London, methought.

Perhaps Collier's Weekly means that Maude Radford Warren's next story is wholly uniquely egregious, but all it concedes, in the blurb, is that it is "altogether uncommonly original."

OUR 1915 PLATFORM.

LONGER INTERMISSIONS BETWEEN DANCES.
MORE STRAPS FOR OUR STANDING ARMY.
NO NUTMEG IN APPLE PIE.

The management of the Strand Theatre is unusually candid. It presents "Pradkin, the noted young Russian violinist. Third and last week by request."

Address to Young Ladies.

[By Miss Mary Ann O'Brien, of Waterford, N. Y.]
But you may say he is an angel.
And that you can trust your life with him,
But you fall in his estimation
By not avoiding the occasions of sin.

Lucifer was an angel
And yet from Heaven he fell.
And for one single thought of pride
He now in hell does dwell.

And no lady or gentleman
Ever took lonely walks or rides alone,
And returned with as clear a conscience
As when they left their home.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Speaking of food and boiled codfish, an uptown instructor has "Special Classes in refined and up to date Dances."

THE COMPLETE SLANGLER.

[From Longfellow's "The Masque of Pandora."] Pandora: Hast thou never lifted the lid?

Speaking of lit'ry gifts for Christmas, we not a year's subscription to The Conning Tower?

If you have a good answer, keep it.

F. P. A.

IF YOU DO YOUR SHOPPING LATE.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN PEACE WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

GRAPEJUICE NEUTRALITY

Further Hints for the Secretary of the Navy in His "Tipperary" Campaign.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: All honor to our noble Secretary of the Navy for his gallant defence of our neutrality assailed with such diabolical subtlety by Great Britain. In her war against the Triple Alliance, Turkey and Herr Ridder she is not satisfied with turning American sentiment in her favor by multitudinous editorials, but she must try to work upon the youthful sympathies of our marines and sailors by insidious wiles of sentimental music hall ditties.

If we are to maintain a strict neutrality sleepless vigilance must be exercised, and the most drastic action taken where danger is suspected. And, indeed, danger to our neutrality is everywhere. Yesterday while passing the White House I heard, with burning indignation, the English national anthem being played. I trembled in terror of the consequences. A performance of "Pinafore" in one of our theatres is advertised to take place. I hope that our soldiers and sailors will be forbidden to attend it, for it would not do for them to be exposed to the perils of neutrality in what were well known, but now happily almost forgotten, words, "It's greatly to my credit that he's an Englishman." Just think what might happen if one of our cavalrymen from Fort Myer should happen to hum the air passing the German Embassy! Mr. Mantell is giving a series of Shakespearean performances in this city this week. "King John" was played Monday night, and will be given again on Friday. In it occur the lines, "This England never did nor never shall, Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror." The delivery of such a sentiment here in our national capital is surely an outrage upon our neutrality. If we are to be really unconditionally neutral, Congress should, soon after convening, take such action as would prevent, during the war, the performance of all English music and drama except such as has been censored by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Navy.

A. STEIN.

Washington, Dec. 3, 1914.

A WHISPER FROM THE KAISER

It Could Have Stopped the War, a Reader Asserts.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Millions of words have been printed regarding the causes of the present European war, and the punishment which should be meted out to those responsible therefor, but I doubt if any words on these two subjects have appeared which are more concise than those contained in the statement made by the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, Bonar Law, who on August 4 last, in announcing his support of the government in its war attitude, said substantially, if not verbally: "The Kaiser may not have caused the war, but a whisper from him would have stopped it. He refused to say the word. He has drawn his sword, and may the accursed system for which he stands perish by the sword." A whisper, a shake of the head, a wave of the hand would have prevented a war in which, so far, it is conservatively estimated that there

have been 5,000,000 victims, to say nothing of the bereaved millions.

I notice that many pro-Germans denounce England for taking part in the war, but I think that American citizens of non-German birth or extraction are almost universal in their opinion that it were better for the British people to be destroyed than that they "would stand quietly by and witness the perpetration of the direst crime that ever stained the pages of history and thus become participants in the sin."

On August 2 a German newspaper of this city sneeringly commented on what its editors supposed was an English backdown, but after August 4 it sneered at England's entrance in the war. Could such hypocrisy be expected to my attention.

Brooklyn, Dec. 2, 1914.

WHO SAYS WE DON'T READ?

Serious Books That Are Always Out at the Library.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The popular belief seems to be the younger generation does not care to read anything heavier than light fiction. A fact which partly contravenes that belief has presented itself to my attention.

The Montague branch of the Brooklyn Public Library has a fairly complete bibliography of salesmanship and advertising. Repeated inquiries for the volumes of Scott, Munsterberg, Hollingsworth, Maxwell, Parsons, Corbin, Atkinson and associate authors always bring the reply, "The book is out."

The library attendants have assured me these books are in constant demand by young men, and that the supply is not nearly equal to the demand. This is a significant fact and should be noted by such of the older men as affirm there is no earnestness in modern youth.
H. R. VAN PELT.

Brooklyn, Dec. 2, 1914.

Hard-Earned Savings Invested in Real Estate.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Who originated the monstrous system of running New York City solely from a tax on real estate? Income and salaries of over \$1,000 yearly could easily pay a tax of 3 or 4 per cent to the municipality. That would cut the tax rate nearly in half and give property owners a chance in life. As it is now, we find our taxes rising and our property going down in value. A valuable corner plot, for instance, that the writer purchased several years ago has almost eaten itself up in taxes and assessments, and is worth less to-day than he paid for it.

Has the city the right to confiscate the capital of those unfortunate enough to invest their hard-earned savings in real estate?
H. C. MAGUIRE.

Brooklyn, Nov. 30, 1914.

"Loyal Neutrality."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your columns this morning Count Revettown, in commenting on our neutrality, is quoted as saying that by a certain course of action the United States would demonstrate that our neutrality is "loyal." Is there such a thing as "loyal neutrality," and, if so, what is it?

RUSSELL E. GEYER.

Brooklyn, Dec. 2, 1914.

The False Prophets Who See in Proper Precautions for Defence a Spirit of Aggression.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Again we see in the reported sermon preached by the Rev. John Haynes Holmes on Thanksgiving Day an instance of the narrow spirit of those who denounce as utterly false and erroneous the beliefs of those who differ from themselves.

Because the preacher of that sermon is himself a believer in disarmament and the spirit of non-resistance, he must needs cry down as "traitors to country and God" those who, equally honest and earnest in their beliefs, would seek to keep this country from the possibility of a fate which may be even now preparing, and which may equal or surpass that of China, Luxemburg and Belgium, to say nothing of those other nations which in the past have either relied upon the supposed intentions of other nations or through their weakness have been unable to properly safeguard themselves.

Mr. Holmes says:

"He is a traitor, not merely to his countrymen, but also to his God, who advises America at this hour to increase her armaments."

Was Washington a traitor to God or country? He urged a suitable and adequate military establishment in times of peace in contemplation of defence in time of war. Are those men traitors who, believing honestly that we are unprepared and relatively defenceless against possible foreign aggression, advocate and urge the correction of what they believe to be military deficiencies, and the safeguarding of our national life, honor and security, and even our individual homes?

There is room for all shades of opinion in this country, and it hardly seems meet and proper to call names at those who differ from ourselves.

As to "false prophets," which the reverend gentleman speaks of as "everywhere arising to warn us that we must arm and thus be prepared," he is in error, for, on the contrary, the Bible, in Jeremiah, vi. 13-17, comments on the false prophets which cry:

"Peace, peace, when there is no peace," and says:

"Also I set watchmen over you, saying hearken to the sound of the trumpet; but they said, We will not hearken!" Therefore behold I will bring evil upon this people."

Can he deny the words of the Master himself, who said: "I have come into this country, and it hardly seems meet and proper to call names at those who differ from ourselves."

It is the constant error of these "peace at any price" advocates that they seem to believe that a proper measure of precaution and preparation (which is only national insurance against the aggression of other nations) is an evidence of a spirit of aggression in ourselves. We may hope that our houses will never be burned, but the wise man provides fire extinguishers and protects himself by insurance, while municipalities support fire companies against the possibility of conflagrations. When a fire starts it is too late to organize a fire department, purchase the apparatus or take out a policy of insurance.

The reverend gentleman further advocates: "Abandoning reliance upon force." "Keep the army and navy at the very minimum," etc.

Why not go a step further in abandoning reliance upon force and give up

the army and navy altogether? Why do we keep any army and navy? Why keep a police force? If the police are necessary to guard against domestic violence, aggression and disorder, and to protect our homes against burglars, and keep our streets free from thugs, highwaymen and evildoers, is not the same principle good in respect to the importance of keeping an army and navy of adequate size to make us safe against national burglary, assault or other attempt upon our national peace or liberties? Does Mr. Holmes lose with contempt upon the ancestors of some of us, if not himself, who all their part in 1776 and 1812, or who carried the burdens of 1861, or who took part in the war for humanity of 1898? If we had had an adequate regular army on these occasions the loss of life would have been less and peace would have come quicker.

Again I am minded to quote for the reverend gentleman's edification, and he will find if he will open his Bible to the twenty-ninth verse of the twelfth chapter of Matthew:

"Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house."

And his attention is invited to the fact that he himself is one of those who are seeking to "bind the strong man" by such sermons and preaching as has called forth this letter. Let Mr. Holmes also read Matthew, 24-48, in which our Lord cites as an example the householder who should have watched and prevented by force his house from being broken up.

Let us by all means practise in our relations with mankind justice, mercy, good faith, but let us watch and be ready, for we know not at what hour the thief will come, and also let us not in our own self-assurance call those who differ from us "traitors."

As there may be some who believe that the treachery lies on the other side in seeking to lull to sleep and fancied security a nation that has always been too prone to follow that course.

To some of us it appears that the time has come when those should be rebuked and silenced who through mere ignorance or misguided opinion would take away from us what little protection we have. As Lowell said: God give us peace. Not such as falls to sleep.

And the Ship of State to harbor purpose Her ports all up, her battle lanterns lit, And her leashed thunders gathering for their leap.

JOHN W. LOVELAND.
New York, Dec. 3, 1914.

America First?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: American relief funds are supplying food, clothing and Christmas gifts to the widows, orphans and the homeless and starving in war-shattered Europe. At the same time we are shipping over thousands of cavalry horses and our steel mills turning out fifty million dollars' worth of war munitions to help in making more and more cripples, orphans and destitute, to whom to send more relief ships. The American spirit of charity, liberality and Christian love of humanity remains unequalled.

J. S. SEIBER.

New York, Dec. 2, 1914.